

## Testimony By Ms. Karen Osborne

Director of Elections

Maricopa County

I would like to welcome the  
Members of the Committee to Arizona.  
We genuinely appreciate the opportunity to share our limited experience with  
Proposition 200.

Voter Registration:

Proposition 200 in Arizona  
has two major sections dealing with the elections process, voter registration  
and identification at the polls.

Proof of citizenship for voter registration began in Arizona on January 25, 2005. Since  
that date, Maricopa  
County has received  
441,000 registrations. 323,000 came through Service Arizona  
electronically; 118,000 were submitted on paper received over the counter and  
by mail. We rejected 15,000 for lack of proof of citizenship.

Citizenship can be proven by an Arizona Driver license or Arizona  
Non-operator license issued after October 1996, U.S. Passport, U.S. Birth  
Certificate, Tribal Identification or Naturalization Certificate. A  
confirmation of the Naturalization certificate must be made prior to processing  
the registration. The Maricopa County Elections Office has an electronic  
connection to Homeland Security for this purpose.

Voting prior to Election Day is known in Arizona as Early Voting. Approximately one-half of all votes cast in the General election of 2004 were cast by mail. Early voting is exempt from proof of identification. Rather, every ballot is cast in an envelope that requires the signature of the voter upon penalty of perjury. Each signature is verified against the original voter registration affidavit on file with the Maricopa County Recorder prior to removal of the ballot from the envelope. Once removed, the ballot is then tabulated.

## Identification at the Polls

Identification at the polling place is not tied to citizenship. Proposition 200 requires the voter to provide specific identification when voting at the polls. Most of the identification used to prove citizenship is not helpful at the polling place due to lack of address. For example, Passports and Birth Certificates do not carry an address.

A valid Arizona driver license, an Arizona Non-operator Identification or Tribal Identification bearing a photograph and address of the voter is the best form of identification. The signature roster is prepared from the registration records of the County Recorder. If the address on the identification matches the roster, the voter is given a regular ballot. If not, they receive a Provisional Ballot.

The voter may substitute 2 pieces of non-photo identification to receive a regular ballot. Bank statements, credit union statements or utility bills dated within 90 days of the election are sufficient if they contain the correct address. A voter may also use vehicle registration and vehicle insurance

cards as well as tax statements. A Voter Identification card and the sample ballot in Maricopa County will be sufficient proof.

If only one form of non-photo identification is presented or no identification is provided the voter is given a Conditional Provisional Ballot. The voter is required to return with proof within 3 days for the Primary or Local Elections and 5 days excluding weekends and holidays for the General Election. Prior to leaving the polling place, the voter is given a list of all locations where they may present their identification. In Maricopa County there were 28 locations for the March and May local elections. There will be 30 locations for the Primary and General Elections.

Voters presenting photo identification with an incorrect address are given a Regular Provisional Ballot which does not require the voter to return and prove their identification.

In March 2005 there were 15 local elections. Combined:

- 71,306 voted by mail which is exempt from identification.
- 1,860 Regular Provisional Ballots were cast.
- 39,496 voted in person, resulting in 177 Conditional Provisional Ballots.
- 62 voters returned with proof of their identification.

43 returned with proof on Election Day.

19 returned during the 3 days after the election.

- 115 did not return and their ballots were not counted.

In May 2005 there were 15 local elections. Combined:

- 70,670 voted by mail which is exempt from identification.
- 2,109 Regular Provisional Ballots were cast.
- 35,752 voted in person, resulting in 130 Conditional Provisional Ballots.
- 58 voters returned with proof of their identification

55 returned with proof on Election Day.

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returned during the 3 days after the election.

- 72 did not return.

Of the Conditional Voters, those who needed to return to prove their identification, 86% in March and 96% in May, did not return. Their ballots were not counted. The voters in these elections are usually the high-efficacy voters. The question is, will they vote by mail next time or not continue to vote. The answer is unknown.

Using our experience to forecast the number of Conditional Provisional Voters, we anticipate 5000 - 6000 Conditional Provisional ballots will be cast in the 2006 General Election.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and I welcome any questions that the Members of the Committee may have.